

April 8, 2014

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on April 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cohen, G. Davis, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino; motion was seconded by Commissioner Cohen. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Virobik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspiration:

Help us, oh God to grow through the hard decision. Lead us to choose not what is easy but what is right, not what is popular, but what is true, not what is glittering, but what is enduring. For we know that we become who we are through our choices.

Unknown

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of April 8, 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 11, 2014, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

Rosalie Sandoval, Administrator for Spring Senior Assisted Living

Patrice Deleget, Senior Librarian

Kathryn Endo-Roberts, Cultural Arts Commissioner

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

7. PRESENTATION: “Spring Park Senior Villa – City of Gardena”

Chairperson K. Davis stated that as Ms. Mallory was not present, the Commission would continue on to Senior Citizens Concerns and return to the presentation when Ms. Mallory arrived.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Torrance Art Museum was now available to rent for events.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that there had been an ad-hoc committee formed to try to save the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SoCalROC), as SoCalROC was only funded for the next year.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City Council would reaffirm support for Proposition 13.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there would be budget workshops on May 13 and 20, and if necessary, on May 27.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City Council had thanked Toyota for their \$500,000 donation to the new sports fields.

Commissioner Kraemer added that the City was purchasing two new rescue ambulances that could also be used as transporting vehicles. She noted that insurance rates would need to be determined, if the ambulances were used for transport.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that on April 8, the City Council would approve the installation of wi-fi for the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center and the Ross Nolte Annex. She stated that she did not know when the wi-fi would be installed.

B. Housing

There was a discussion on how to find affordable housing in Torrance and rental rates in the City.

There was a discussion on methods to help seniors who were experiencing difficulties driving.

Commissioner Virobik explained the Transit's Senior Ambassador bus program and noted that the program encouraged seniors to ride the bus.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article by Helen Dennis on “The Positive Sign of Aging” and noted that studies had shown that getting involved and having a purpose or a second career had a positive influence on health and longevity.

Chairperson K. Davis reported on a presentation at Focal Point that highlighted the F.A.S.T. technique, which could be used to evaluate if someone had had a stroke.

7. PRESENTATION: “Spring Park Senior Villa – City of Gardena” continued

Yvonne Mallory, Housing Programs Manager and Economic Development Manager, City of Gardena presented information on the Spring Park Senior Villa that was currently under construction in the City of Gardena. She distributed information sheets on the Villa and reported

that the building would have 37 units, for seniors 62 years and older and that the rent would be 30% of the residents' annual income.

She noted that the City of Gardena had determined through their annual surveys that there was not enough affordable housing available for seniors, as there were long waiting lists for affordable properties. She added that the City of Gardena had leased the land for the Villa to a non-profit corporation, who in turn was leasing the land back to the City at \$1 per year in perpetuity.

Ms. Mallory reported that the Villa had: 3 stories, 37 units of 540 square feet, underground parking, guest parking, elevators, new kitchens, one bedroom units, security cameras, laundry facilities and an afternoon meal program. She added that the Villa should be completed by the end of 2014 and was located at 2010 El Segundo Boulevard.

Ms. Mallory stated that applications were not yet available, but noted that there was a sign in sheet to add your name on or one could call her office to be added to the list. She added that the units would be assigned by lottery, by the Management Company.

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Ms. Mallory stated that the units were classified as US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 202. She added that the City of Gardena had state of California funding of \$2.9 million as well as federal funding of \$6.9 million for the Villa.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Cohen, Ms. Mallory stated that Gardena residents did not have priority. She noted that the Villa was served by the Gardena Transit service as well as the Gardena free senior courtesy ride service.

Ms. Mallory stated that the Commissioners or other interested parties could call Noel Switzer at HDSI Management Company for any information or questions concerning the Villa.

Ms. Mallory noted that the Management Company would send out applications to those on the sign up lists when the units are approximately 79% completed, most likely in August or September 2014.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

C. Health (continued)

Commissioner Griffith stated that the County had taken a position on ending hunger in Los Angeles, as it was a growing problem in the County. She reported on a study that found that people who were up and walked often, rather than sitting, were healthier and had fewer problems. She noted that there had been a discussion of multi-diagnoses problems, which could result when diagnoses were made and medications prescribed without full knowledge of all of the patient's medical history.

Commissioner Griffith stated that Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) had taken a position to support Assemblywoman Yamada's bill to fund further money for Adult Protection Services (APS).

Commissioner Griffith reported on a recent convention on Alzheimer's, at which physicians had stated that the disease was not understood and that there was still no cure for the disease.

There was a discussion of long term care insurance coverage and the increase in rates and changes to the coverage.

Commissioner Griffith stated that Medi-Cal would cover dental care costs beginning May 1, 2014. She noted that adults could still be susceptible to childhood diseases.

There was a discussion of dental care coverage. Kathryn Endo-Roberts stated that many of the dental insurances were HMO programs, and sometimes it was necessary to have more than one policy to have adequate coverage.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino had submitted a report from Transit Administration Manager Mills that stated that the Transit Department was preparing for the second year of their two year budget and noted that the Council would review Transit's contract renewals and extensions and added that the Regional Transit Center was scheduled for completion in late 2015.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Cohen reported that his involvement in awarding of scholarships for the "Beat the Odds" for the Youth Council was very inspiring.

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the Women's Club had raised \$8000 for scholarships for local high school and nursing students.

Chairperson K. Davis noted that the Library Commission was requesting a representative from the Commission attend a forum on April 28, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library for a pilot focus group to discuss ideas for current and future library programs and services. Chairperson K. Davis noted that she would attend and Commissioner Cohen stated that he would attend also, if more than one representative per Commission was permitted.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Successful Aging Expo would be held on May 3 at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson K. Davis noted that the Senior Prom would be held on April 11 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Tax Assistance Program was very successful and processing a high number of returns daily. She noted that the Senior Fair would be on May 10.

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the H.E.L.P. office was looking for assistance on April 10 and 11 to stuff envelopes for their June fundraiser.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand expressed her thanks to the Torrance Women's Club for their donation to the ATTIC and their hospitality during lunch at the Club.

Chairperson K. Davis noted that the Women's Club would host bingo on April 16.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that Patrice Deleget and Phil Ross from the Torrance Library had presented two very successful Brain Booster programs at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center. Senior Librarian Deleget stated that she would present additional programs on the first Wednesdays in May and June.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Tip-a-Cop fundraiser for Special Olympics would be held at Lazy Dog Café on April 9, starting at 5:00 p.m. and that the Rose Float Committee would hold two fundraisers, one at Marie Callender's and one at the Elephant Bar. She added that the flyers could be found online.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there was a reminder and a donation request for the Armed Forces Day Parade included in City utility bills. She reminded the Commissioners of the Torrance Votes website.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

March 2014

Total number of documented calls: 31	Total number of callbacks: 14
Miscellaneous calls: 49	Total number of walk-ins: 15
Total number of calls received: 80	
Of the documented calls:	
42% were for transportation	45% were for housing
39% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point attended the *Seniors, Don't Be Scammed* lecture at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. She invited the Commissioners and the public to attend the Focal Point monthly meeting on April 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center and noted that the speaker would be Julia Rosenberg, California Senior Legislature member.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the AARP had a reporting system called fraud watch network on their website. She added that NPR had reported on phone scam where callers claimed to be the IRS and the local Police department.

Commissioner Virobik stated that the Police Department update service on Nixle was an excellent source for community information.

There was a discussion on the increase in burglaries and the Partners in Policing Program.

9. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and Commissioner Virobik had been working with Executive Director Kitabayashi of the Westchester Playa Village. Commissioner G. Davis noted that Executive Director Kitabayashi had discussed the idea of the Commission becoming part of the organization with her Board of Directors.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and Commissioner Virobik would meet again with Executive Director Kitabayashi to follow up.

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand suggested that Commissioner Virobik talk to Recreation Supervisor for Senior Programs Snodgrass about setting up a computer in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center for seniors to use.

There was a discussion of training seniors on fraud awareness when using a computer.

10. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that letters had been sent to the nominees and requested that any available Commissioner attend the award ceremony at the Council meeting on May 13. Chairperson K. Davis stated that she would attend the meeting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the County ceremony would be on May 8 and asked which Commissioners were available to attend. Chairperson K. Davis stated that she would be interested in attending.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was a discussion of the problem of understaffing in nursing homes.

Commissioner Griffith noted that the Pasadena Conference on Aging had extended an invitation to attend the conference on April 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene and reported that there would be presentations on: disaster preparedness, long term care, memory improvement, finding work after 50, planning for retirement, preventing hearing loss and being a healthy senior.

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons noted that she was preparing for Candidates' forums for April 27 and May 4. She added that 95% of the residents of New Horizons vote.

Rosalie Sandoval, Administrator for Spring Senior Assisted Living, reported that the center would have a networking breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on April 17 and added that social workers, home health care workers and others would be invited to the meeting and tours of the center would be conducted.

Senior Librarian Deleget distributed flyers and information on upcoming Library events and noted that there would be a book sale on April 25 and 26 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. She added that there was a Teen Tech Xpert program at the Library and noted that Evans Coates was conducting the training for the Teen Techs.

There was a discussion of the Teen Tech Xpert program.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as submitted May 13, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
